



# 2015 NATURE DAY CAMP HANDBOOK



NATURE PLAY  
(ages 4-6)  
9:30am-1:00pm

Please be sure to read over the whole handbook carefully with your camper so that you're ready for a fantastic week!

## MONDAY MORNING CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

- 9:15-9:30am** Meet your Environmental Educator, receive important details about camp, sign in, adults can go, campers start having fun!  
*(Please note that we check-in the older-aged campers between 8:45-9:00am)*
- 1:00pm** Pick your camper up and sign them out in their den

## Nature Daycamp Checklist It's always fun to be prepared!

**Appropriate Clothing** ☺ We want campers to be safe and comfortable.

☐ Rain Gear      ☐ Warm Play Clothes      ☐ Extra Set of Clothes      ☐ Hat  
☐ Comfortable Walking Shoes      ☐ Sunscreen      ☐ Backpacks are nice, but not mandatory

**Participants are REQUIRED to be potty-trained (no pull-ups or diapers).**

**Food** ☺ Daycampers are very active. We DO have a lunchtime at camp!

*(Please check your den assignment to see if your child's den has any food restrictions. If none are stated, then there are no restrictions on what your child can bring to eat. Please notify us if your child has an allergy so we can make accommodations.)*

☐ Healthy Lunch and Snack, and Drink (campers do not have access to a refrigerator or microwave)  
☐ Reusable lunch containers  
☐ Water bottle

**Beach Day** (Usually on Wednesday)

☐ **Closed-toe shoes that can get wet**      ☐ Warm clothes      ☐ Sunscreen      ☐ Hat  
☐ Clothes that can get wet (bathing suits are not necessary, we do not swim)  
☐ Dry socks, shoes and clothes to change into after the beach, campers must wear shoes, and dry shoes are always the nicest.

**Please check out our fundraising table as you either drop-off or pick-up your child to find memories that will help your child remember this very special place!**

♥♥♥ Nature Daycamp is a 501c3 non-profit ♥♥♥

# **THE RIGHTS WE HAVE AT NATURE DAYCAMP**

**I have the right to be treated with kindness at camp.**

This means no one will laugh at me, tease, or insult me.

**I have the right to be myself at camp.**

This means no one will treat me unfairly because I am fat or thin, fast or slow, boy or girl.

**I have a right to feel safe at camp.**

This means no one will threaten me, bully me, push me, or destroy my property.

**I have a right to be heard at camp.**

This means no one will yell or shout at me and my opinions will be considered in any plans we make.

**I have the right to learn about myself at camp.**

This means I will be free to express my feelings and opinions without being interrupted or criticized.



## **Camp Details**

### **Where can I find my camper's den assignment?**

Your camper's den assignment will be posted at the Discovery Park Environmental Learning Center the Monday before the child's scheduled week.

### **What can you tell me (the camper) about Nature Daycamp?**

#### **Who will be there?**

Each week children age 4 -12 participate in **Discovery Park's Nature Daycamp!** The kids come from all over the city, King County, Washington, and sometimes even further. Children are placed into small groups (dens) of 8-10. Each den has the same Environmental Educator for the entire week.

#### **Who will be in charge of my den?**

Discovery Park Nature Daycamp's camp counselors/group leaders are called Environmental Educators. We all have CPR and First Aid Training and are Washington State Patrol background checked and have lots of experience working with kids and the environment. Many dens may also have a Junior Naturalist, a teen volunteer age 13-16, here to serve as a positive role model and a great helper.

#### **What if I don't know anyone?**

One of the goals of Nature Daycamp is for all campers to go home having made at least one new friend; usually it happens you meet so many that you can't remember all of their names!

### What will we (me and my new friends) be doing?

At Nature Daycamp we spend a lot of time outside enjoying nature: rain or shine. *“If you always have dry feet, you miss half the fun of life”– Thoreau* We feel very lucky to have such a beautiful place to explore and we want to try and see every inch of it, so we are going to walk, hike, run, skip and crawl a GREAT, GRAND, GOOD amount of the time. Each day the dens visit one of the Park’s four main habitats (Pond, Beach, Meadow, and Forest) to explore and learn about the plants and animals that live there! So grab your boots, walking shoes, rain coat, jacket, imagination and join us for a ton of fun.

### What should I wear?

We love to get dirty playing and making crafts at Nature Daycamp so please wear play clothes--like the fun memories we make, our stains may last forever. It’s a good idea to have comfortable shoes (close-toed shoes are the best) or boots that are good for walking, a jacket, and extra clothes just in case—you will have your own cubby to use for the week and you’re welcome to leave extra clothes there.

## What are we going to talk about and when?

Through nature walks, hands-on exploration, games, stories, songs, crafts, movement, simulation, and imagination, we will have a positive, fun experience in nature.

*Depending on what week you are joining us for, we have two different themes:*

**Camp A:** Habitats

**Camp B:** Energy and Food

### Our general week schedule:

**Monday:** Welcome to Nature Daycamp! Meet your Environmental Educator, make new friends, and take a short hike through the forest. We will get familiar with Nature Daycamp rules and boundaries, choose a name for our den, learn the names of the other campers in our den, meet all of the other dens, play games, sing songs, and make a craft.

**Tuesday:** Today we’ll have a meadow adventure complete with a hike, games, picnic and a craft project. Be sure to bring your hat and sunscreen.

**Wednesday:** Today we will ride a school bus to the beach! Be sure to have sunscreen and closed toed shoes that can get wet (we don’t want any barnacle cuts ruining our fun)!

**Thursday:** **ON THIS DAY YOU WILL MEET US AT THE NORTH PARKING LOT! (Pick-up will be as normal back at Nature Daycamp.)** We will gather at the field at the North Parking Lot area. We will walk back to camp and relax with a craft project.

**Friday:** We’ll wrap up the week with a fun day complete with a scavenger hunt for our camp t-shirt and a FUN, FUN, Festival! Following the festival will be an all-camp and family picnic. That’s right families join us at 12:00 with your brown bag lunch and enjoy the fun of camp with your child. At 12:30 we’ll have our goodbye ceremony complete with songs and patches.

# Misc. (but important) Info

## CONTACT INFO:

Nature Daycamp Office: (206) 386-4273  
Visitor Center Front Desk: (206) 386-4236  
(The Visitor Center is open Tuesday-Sunday 8:30am-5pm.  
They are CLOSED on Mondays.)

Daycamp Director: [Trixie.Magsarili@seattle.gov](mailto:Trixie.Magsarili@seattle.gov)  
Assistant Director: [Erika.Peterson@seattle.gov](mailto:Erika.Peterson@seattle.gov)

**MANDATORY CHECK IN AND OUT PROCEDURE:** Campers must be dropped off and picked up inside their assigned dens or at the North Parking Lot on Pond Day. A parent or authorized adult must sign in and out their child every day when arriving and leaving. Signatures must be the full name. Children will be released only to those individuals authorized by legal guardians, please keep your environmental educator updated on changes to your pick-up list. **We are grateful for your patience, your environmental educator meets lots of adults and it is their job to make sure who you are. They may ask you everyday to remind them of who you are- remember this is for your child's safety. Thank you in advance!**

**LATE FEE:** Nature Daycamp hours are 9:30am-1:00 pm. Children look forward to seeing their adults after a busy and exciting day, and it is confusing when no one is there to pick them up. Please help us and your child by being on time. A late fee of \$1 per minute will be charged at time of pick-up.

**REPORTING ABSENCES:** The guardian is responsible for notifying Nature Daycamp when a child will not be in attendance for the day or any part of the day. Each camper is important to us and we worry when they are not here on time. Please let us know if your camper will be late or unable to attend. **Please call Trixie or Erika, Camp Directors, at 206-386-4273.**

**ILLNESS:** Children not well enough to follow the day's routine of hiking and outside play must not attend camp. This includes children with the following symptoms: fever, sore throat, active rash, discharging eyes, nausea, diarrhea, stomach pain, early cold.

**CONTAGIOUS DISEASE:** Adults must inform the camp director immediately if a child contracts contagious disease or is exposed to one. This includes but is not limited to chicken pox, conjunctivitis, mumps, measles, viral infections, Fifth's disease, and lice. Nature Daycamp will post a notice to alert others. Children being treated with antibiotics for a contagious disease may not return to our facility until s/he had been using the medication for a 24 to 48 hour period and/or the danger of infecting others is over. Incidents of contagious disease are reported to the County Health Department.

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION:** Any medication administered to a child while at our facility, prescription or non-prescription, **must** be accompanied by written approval of a physician. Medication must be in the original container with the patient's name and date of purchase. Your physician must fill out a Medical Treatment Authorization form for any medication to be administered by the Nature Daycamp Staff. **Please contact Trixie or Erika in advance of camp for this form.**

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:** In case of a serious illness or injury, the following procedures will be followed:

1. Administer immediate first aid/CPR
2. Contact 911
3. Call guardian or emergency contact
4. Transport to nearest hospital (if necessary)
5. Report to appropriate supervisors
6. File accident/medical report



If an emergency arises and you need to contact a child during camp, please call the Visitor Center at 206-386-4236. Park staff will locate the child for you.

**LOST AND FOUND:** We have a “Lost and Found” bin outside of the Red/Orange Dens. If requested, we can also leave items at the Visitor Center front desk. The Visitor Center is open Tuesday-Sunday 8:30am to 5:00pm.

**REFUNDS:** A participant may be issued a refund for a day camp program, if he/she notifies the city staff at least fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning date of the camp. If you have only paid the \$15 deposit, the deposit is non-refundable and non-transferrable and no refund will be given. If you have paid in full and made a request at least fourteen (14) days prior, you will receive a refund minus \$15 (the non-refundable, non-transferrable deposit). No refunds will be made for requests received within fourteen (14) days prior to the beginning of the camp.

**PRO-RATING:** We do not pro-rate tuition fees for illness, absences, behavioral suspensions, or unannounced vacations. Children enrolled in Nature Daycamp are reserving time, space, supplies, and staff whether or not the child actually attends.

**DISCIPLINE:** To maintain a safe and cooperative setting, Discovery Park Nature Daycamp has specific policies and limitations that govern our facilities, program staff, and the behavior of each child. Compliance with imposed limits and policies of the facility and program is expected. Should it become necessary to correct or resolve any dangerous or disruptive behavior, Nature Daycamp staff will follow the following steps:

1. **Reasoning:** Communication between the child and staff where problems and solutions are identified
2. **Time out:** Removal from specific activity for a short period of time followed by child/staff conference
3. **Guardian/Child/Staff conference and contract**
4. **Dismissal from program**

Nature Daycamp staff use a positive behavior reinforcement system to promote appropriate behavior. No form of physical discipline is allowed. We hope to minimize the need for disciplinary methods.

**Your attendance at Nature Daycamp demonstrates your agreement to these discipline guidelines.**

♥♥♥ Don't forget to check out our fundraising table as you either drop-off or pick-up your child to find memories that will help your child remember this very special place! ♥♥♥

## Nature Daycamp Staff Bios

**Trixie, Director - Hi!** My name is Trixie and I am looking forward to my fifth summer as the Nature Day Camp Director! During the non-summer months I still explore, learn, play, and hike in Discovery Park as the Nature Kids Preschool Director and Ant Class Teacher!

I received my degree in Elementary Education with an Earth Science background from Western Washington University. I have been a substitute teacher in various local school districts, but more importantly, I have also spent the past dozen+ years enjoying the outdoors and sharing that passion with kids as a day camp counselor for various parks departments and local YMCA branches. When I'm not enjoying the sunny days at Discovery Park, I'm biding my time waiting for winter to arrive (since it didn't really arrive at all last year) and exploring the big backyard of the beautiful Pacific Northwest! I am looking forward to another adventure-filled summer full of fun, learning and new discoveries!

**Erika, Assistant Director - Hi!** It's Erika! I'm back for my eleventh summer at Discovery Park Nature Daycamp. Not only am I Assistant Director, I am also a teacher at Nature Kids Preschool. I am very lucky to spend so much time at Discovery Park. I am super excited to see new and returning campers. I received a degree in Elementary Education from Montana State University. Before coming to Nature Daycamp I was a substitute teacher at Nature Kids as well as in Mukilteo and Edmonds Schools. When I'm not at Discovery Park I enjoy gardening, bike riding, hiking, reading and trying to learn Norwegian, but my favorite thing is visiting with my nieces, Kaylee and Jesimae. I am looking forward to sunny days and exploring the park I love.

**Hilary, Environmental Educator, Red Den - Hi there!** My name is Hilary, and I'm a new member of the Nature Day Camp Team this year. I graduated from Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University with a degree in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy. I'll be attending the Masters of Environmental Studies program this fall at Evergreen State College. I've worked both at Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium and Woodland Park Zoo.

My hobbies include hiking on weekends, listening to live music, and reading. I'm a Seattle native and have a deep appreciation for PNW wildlife and habitats. I also play the violin and the guitar, which comes in handy around a campfire.

I love studying animals, environmental planning/policy, and how ecosystems work. As an Environmental Educator, I value taking in all that nature has to offer and looking at the big picture. I'm passionate about working with youth too! I'm looking forward to learning and having tons of fun with Nature Campers this summer.

**Carolyn, Environmental Educator, Orange Den - Hello!** My name is Carolyn Hartman and this is my first summer working as an environmental educator at Discovery Park. I am excited to work with the nature day campers this summer and explore Discovery Park's ecosystems together!

I am currently a student at the University of Washington pursuing a dual degree in Community Environment and Planning, and Environmental Science and Resource Management with a focus in ecology restoration and environmental horticulture. At UW I am also involved in the ASUW Senate, Northwest Women, Students Expressing Environmental Dedication, and the Campus Sustainability Fund. In the future I hope to find a career that lets me spend time outdoors, and hopefully with students as well!

Outside of school and work I love spending my free time outside hiking, canoeing, kayaking, climbing, and identifying plants.

I am looking forward to spending my summer outside at Discovery Park and getting to know the lovely campers!